



March 2005

## **Status Report on Program and Facility Approval**

### **HECB Information Item**

This is an informational report to the members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its March 30 meeting. No board action is necessary at this time.

### **Background**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board is charged with planning and coordination of academic programs and off-campus facilities, including teaching sites and centers.

In September 2005, the board adopted revised policies and procedures contained in *Program and Facility Approval Policies and Procedures*. The revised policies and procedures clearly define the criteria used to approve programs and off-campus facilities and offer ample opportunity for interested parties to provide feedback on program proposals.

Under the *Program and Facility Approval Policies and Procedures*, the HECB approves:

- New degree programs by any public four-year college or university;
- Creation of any off-campus programs by a public four-year college or university;
- Purchase or lease of major off-campus facilities by a public four-year college or university or a community or technical college;
- Creation of higher education centers and consortia;
- New degree programs and creation of off-campus programs by an independent college or university, in collaboration with a community or technical college;
- Applied bachelor's degree programs developed by a community or technical college; and
- Agreements between a community or technical college and one or more regional universities, branch campuses, or state colleges to offer bachelor's degree programs.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Program and Facility Approval Policies and Procedures* authorize the HECB executive director to approve proposals by public four-year institutions to plan new programs or extend existing degree programs to an off-campus location. The process requires an institution to submit a "notification of intent" (NOI) to the HECB, providing basic information about the program and detailing the need and cost of delivering the program.

HECB staff post the information on the HECB Web site within five business days after receiving the proposal and notify the provosts of the other public four-year institutions, the Independent Colleges of Washington, the Council of Presidents, and the four-year universities' Committee on Academic Program Planning. Interested parties have 30 days to review and comment, and if there are no objections, the HECB executive director will approve the proposal.

### **Program Changes and Planning Activities Approved by the Executive Director between December 2005 through February 2006**

From December 2005 through February 2006, the HECB executive director approved the following program changes and planning activities:

Eastern Washington University received approval to move the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Disorders to the Spokane Riverpoint Campus, effective September 2006.

Western Washington University received permission to develop a proposal for a Masters of Professional Accounting program that would begin fall 2007 at the Bellingham Campus. Both programs are described below.

### **Bachelor of Arts in Communication Disorders at EWU - Spokane Riverpoint - Approved February 13, 2006**

Eastern Washington University received approval to move the undergraduate program in communication disorders to the Spokane Riverpoint Campus. The change would allow the undergraduate program to share facilities with the graduate program and provide more convenient access to lab and clinic space. In addition, the consolidation will eliminate the need for duplication between the two sites and allow faculty and students to concentrate efforts more fully on classroom and clinical activities and substantially reduce the need to commute between the Spokane Campus and the Cheney Campus.

Beginning fall 2006, the program's 46 undergraduate students will be engaged in courses and clinical work at the Spokane campus. The change provides for consolidation of resources and possible cost savings; the proposal does not anticipate expanded enrollments and therefore further enrollment projections are not provided.

In accordance with HECB Board Policies and Procedures, the program proposal was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed move.

### **Master of Professional Accounting at Western Washington University – Permission to Develop a Proposal - March 15, 2006**

Western Washington University received “permission to develop” a program proposal for a Master of Professional Accounting (M.P.Acc) degree program. The program would allow students to move directly from a baccalaureate degree in accounting into a 45-credit master’s degree program that would prepare students for the CPA exam. In 2000, the requirements for the CPA exam changed such that students in undergraduate programs were required to complete 225 quarter credits (inclusive of the bachelor’s degree credits) in order to meet licensing requirements. Western was among many schools that maintained their undergraduate accounting program and added an accounting option within their accelerated M.B.A. program for students to meet these requirements. Since 2000, an increasing number of firms have expressed a preference for students with a master’s degree and internship experience. The proposed M.P.Acc will provide students with a greater opportunity for internships than the existing pathway, and will more closely align with employer hiring preferences.

- Beginning in fall 2007, the program would admit 15 FTE students, and would grow to an enrollment of 25 FTE students by the fourth year of the program (2010).
- The proposal cites several sources in establishing demand for the program. Employer and student preference provide the primary motivation to move to a graduate level program, which would address a demonstrated need for additional graduates who are prepared for the CPA exam. The needs addressed in the proposal are consistent with findings in the State and Regional Needs Assessment.
- In accordance with HECB Board Policies and Procedures, the request for planning authority was circulated among the public baccalaureate institutions for comment. No institutions raised concerns about the proposed program.

### **Programs Currently Under Review**

#### **Community and Technical College Baccalaureate Programs Seeking Permission to Develop Status:**

- South Seattle – B.A.S. Hospitality Management (Comment period ended 1-6-06)
- Bellevue – B.A.S. Radiation and Imaging Sciences (Comment period ended 1-6-06)
- Everett – B.A.S. Business Development (Comment period ended 1-6-06)
- Lake Washington – B.A.T. Management (Comment period ended 1-6-06)

- Olympic – B.S. Nursing (Comment period ended 1-6-06)
- Peninsula – B.A.S. Applied Management (Comment period ended 1-6-06)

### **Program Extensions and Community and Technical College/University Agreements**

- Clark College/Eastern Washington University – B.A.S.W. with a minor in Alcohol and Drug and Aging Studies and B.S. Technology (Notice of Intent - Comment period ended 2-28-06)
- Edmonds Community College/Central Washington University - B.A.S. Information Technology and Administrative Management (Notice of Intent - Comment period ended 2-28-06)
- Everett Community College/University of Washington, Bothell – B.A. Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (Notice of Intent - Comment period ended 2-28-06)
- Pierce College/Central Washington University – B.A.Ed. Elementary Education with minor in Reading (Notice of Intent - Comment period ended 2-28-06)

### **New Program Approvals**

#### University of Washington

- Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management (Scheduled for action March 2006)
- Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science (Comment period ended 1-14-06)

#### Western Washington University

- B.A. in Japanese (Under review)

### **New Programs Approved in 2006**

University of Washington, Bothell – M.A. in Culture Studies (approved January 2006).

University of Washington, Tacoma – B.A. in Computing and Software Systems (approved January 2006).

Eastern Washington University – B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies (approved February, 2006).